

Remarks

Formality Objections

Kindly note that the formality objections the Examiner had to claims 1 to 8, 12, 13, 15 and 19 to 22 have been remedied with the attached amendments to the claims.

Claims Rejections 35 USC 102 and 103

The Examiner indicated that Claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the intervening claims. Kindly note that we have amended claim 1 to include the former limitations of claims 1, 12 and 13 and therefore, newly amended claim 1 contains patentable subject matter in accordance with the Examiner's findings. Therefore, all claims depending from claim 1 now contain patentable subject matter.

Independent claims 19 and 21 have both been amended to include the phrase randomly staggered rather than simply staggered and this amendment has been made in order to overcome the Examiner's 35 USC 103(a) objection to these claims as further explained below.

The Examiner has indicated that Halter (DE4218095) discloses a die for forming a blow-film comprising spiral feed grooves on opposing sides of the disc, wherein the spiral channels are "offset" with respect to each other (see the Halter abstract).

I refer the Examiner to the Halter patent column three, starting on line five, the last sentence of the second paragraph, where it says in German:

Man erkennt, das die Spiralkanalabschnitte 10 der heiden Scharen in der Draufsicht auf Lucke versetzt angeordnet sind.

This translated into English means:

A person skilled in the art will recognize that the spiral channels are oriented on each side such that the spirals on one side take up the space between the adjacent spirals on the other side.

In other words, a top spiral is located between adjacent spirals located directed below the top spiral so that the positioning of the top spiral falls within the gap or the space between adjacent spirals directly below it.

The abstract uses the word "offset" relative to each other, rather than "staggered" as we do in our patent application.

The dictionary definition of the term "offset" in the Collins English Dictionary published by Harpers Colin Publishers, Third Edition, 1991 defines "offset" as something that counter balances or compensates for something else or an allowance made to counteract some effects.

In other words, the top channel is offset or counterbalances the bottom channel by placing the top channel within the space or the gap between the two bottom channels. Figure 4 in particular shows this as the channels 10 on the bottom and top surface which are very carefully organized and positioned so that the channels are oriented within the gap or the space between the adjacent channels on the opposite surface. In this way, one is able to nest the channels closer together as depicted in Figure 4, thereby improving homogeneity because of a more homogenized temperature distribution.

On the other hand we claim randomly staggered grooves which are depicted in Figures 10, 11 and 12 for example in which the grooves may overlap and are positioned in random orientation, not for the purpose of nesting together the grooves such that one groove falls within the gap or the space between two adjacent grooves on the opposite surface.

The homogeneity that we achieve is not through melt temperature, but rather through melt

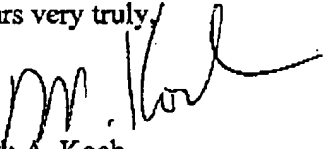
distribution which is the purpose of randomly staggering the grooves.

Therefore, in our opinion, Halter teaches away from randomly staggered grooves and in fact teaches very specifically and orderly oriented grooves or channels for the purpose of producing homogeneity of temperature rather homogeneity of distribution. Therefore our newly submitted claims 19 and 21 contain patentable subject matter.

The Examiner indicated that claim 20 was allowable as originally submitted and we include it herewith as well.

We now submit that this application is in a condition of allowance and look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours very truly,



Mark A. Koch

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Encl.

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